NEWS / A4
PMA's 2nd female topnotcher in 1999 dies in Bataan accident

BUSINESS / B1
Battle for control of Meralco on; buyer of 10% gov't shares seen allied with SMC

NEWS / A2
Gov't to declare unilateral ceasefire with NDF

ACROSS / A14
Land mine blast kills 5 soldiers in Surigao del Sur

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, December 4, 2008 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 360 [illegible]



BEAUTIES AND THE BEST Twenty-two candidates of the Mutya ng Pilipinas beauty pageant converge at one of the country's best tourist destinations, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan. [illegible] Coronation night will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7, in Puerto Princesa.

Broadcaster shot dead in N. Samar

By Rachel Arnaiz and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR—The killers made sure that the broadcaster was dead.

When Leo Lucas Mila's body was found near the gate of his radio station, it had 12 bullet wounds—two in the left chest, two in the belly, two in the left leg, and several in the mouth and right temple.

It was "riddled with bullets from head to foot," said [illegible], head of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) chapter in Samar-Leyte, citing [illegible]

BROADCASTER A6

Bus, jeepney, taxi fares cut starting Dec. 15

By [illegible]

STARTING DEC. 15, THE MINIMUM jeepney fare will be cut by 50 centavos nationwide for a three-month period because of declining fuel prices, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said yesterday.

Bus fares are also being reduced, and the mandatory P10 tip for taxi drivers is being suspended for the next three months.

In Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, the minimum jeepney fare 11 days from now will be P7.50.

It was the second fare reduction for jeepneys (also 50 centavos) and buses (50 centavos to P1) since Nov. 5, [illegible]

BUS, JEEPNEY A6

Logging blamed for floodings in Camarines Norte

By Jonas Cabiles Soltes and Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

[illegible]

LOGGING A6

Palace belittles Bro. Mike threat



WHO'S ADVISING WHO In this file photo, President Arroyo talks to her spiritual adviser, Bro. Mike Velarde, El Shaddai head. Are they still on advising terms?

GMA won't stop Cha-cha drive

By Philip C. Tubeza in Hong Kong and TJ Burgonio in Manila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's men yesterday tiptoed around Bro. Mike Velarde's threat to call out his followers to march against Charter change, saying she had consistently disclaimed plans for a term extension whether under the 1987 Constitution or a revised one.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said that despite Velarde's threat to lead one-million-strong street protests by members of his El Shaddai if Ms Arroyo did not stop her allies and her sons from pushing Charter change, Malacañang respected his position.

"Everybody has the right to do whatever they feel is within their democratic rights. As far as the Palace is concerned, we will continue doing what we are supposed to do as the executive," Dureza told reporters in Hong Kong, where he accompanied Ms Arroyo to

PALACE A6

Bolante arrested anew

By Christine O. Avendaño

A TEAM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE Senate Sergeant at Arms last night arrested former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante after he was cited in contempt for allegedly lying in the past three hearings on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

[illegible]

BOLANTE A6

183 vs 18: Final vote on impeach complaint

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FIT for a funeral when the end came for the fourth impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo close to dawn yesterday.

Subdued applause came from the crowd who managed to stay inside of the House of Representatives plenary hall long enough to hear Speaker Prospero Nograles announce that an overwhelming majority had decided to bury the complaint after a session that began at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.

This latest complaint was different from its predecessors because it was backed by the testimony of a former member of the President's inner circle, former Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Pangasinan representative.

The vote was 183 to uphold the dismissal of the complaint last week by the justice committee, 18 against and three abstained, according to the House plenary affairs bureau.

"The President welcomes this development," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters. "We can now move forward, and have a better holiday season."

"You might say that," he said

VOTE A6



BI men at Naia told: No caroling

By Jerome Aning

SOUNDS NAUGHTY, NOT NICE. [illegible]

BI MEN A6



WELL-SUITED Dapper in a suit, the Philippines' pride, Manny Pacquiao, arrives at his favorite hotel in Las Vegas, the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, for "the fight of his life" on Dec. 6, versus Oscar De La Hoya in a welterweight bout.

Stranded Pampanga housewife relished free first class food, hotel

By Noel Adlai O. Velasco

BANGKOK—WHILE MANY travelers were furious and restless from being trapped for eight days in the airport standoff in Bangkok, a Filipino tourist relished every moment of it.

[illegible]

STRANDED A6

WANTED: SICK BOOKS CRUSADER

Same old problems: Errors are unforgivable

By Erika Sauler

(Last of three parts)

i-TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG, bad wolf?

[illegible]

SAME OLD A6

Second FrontPage



MEGALOTTO 6/45: 7 8 15 16 27 43 — P79,353,117.00

Gov't to call holiday ceasefire

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT WILL DEclare a unilateral ceasefire with communist insurgents during the Christmas season despite the reported collapse of informal peace talks in Norway, officials said yesterday.

"The suspension of offensive military operations is a policy being followed by this administration. We might just do that in keeping with the spirit of Christmas," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

[illegible]

Twice with all rebels

[illegible]

Batasan bombing suspect seeks bail

By Nancy Carvajal

A SUSPECT IN THE DEADLY EXPLOSION at the House of Representatives last year has filed a petition for bail with a Quezon City court hearing the case.

[illegible]

RP wants Malaysian role in talks clarified

SolGen urges PCGG to fire private lawyers

Cory, FVR join ex-leaders' call to free Suu Kyi

Car crash kills PMA's 1st female valedictorian

"Know the TRUTH and the TRUTH will set you free" (John 8:32)

We appeal that this Reproductive Health Bill (HB 5043) be DISAPPROVED by CONGRESS!

PRAYER

Broadcaster shot dead in N. Samar

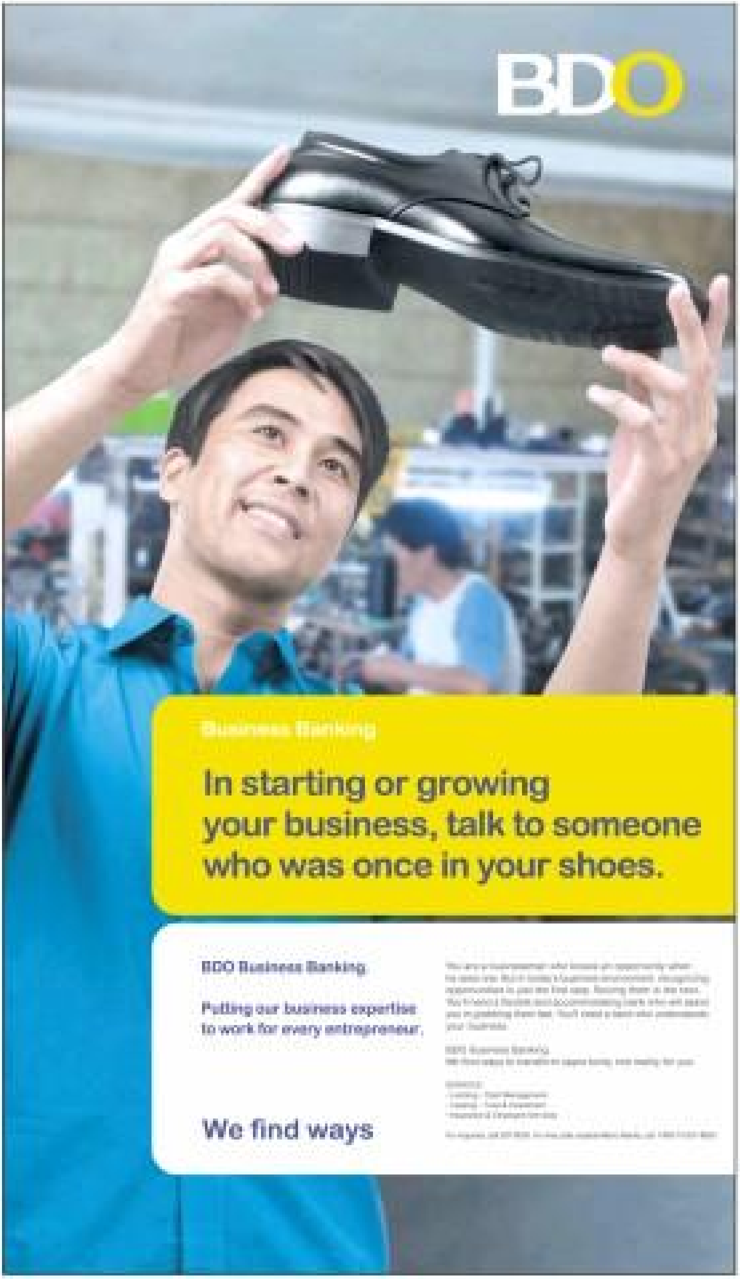
Death threats

NBI probe

WHAT WENT BEFORE

8 journalists killed this year

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Palace belittles Bro. Mike Velarde's threat

'All talk'

People power

Dec. 12 rally

Con-ass in 2009

183 vs 18: Final vote on impeach complaint came before dawn

Never so few

'Hakot' crowd fills up Batasan session hall

Bolante arrested anew for 'eight instances of lying'

New chance to tell truth

List of contradictions

Patience stretched

Gov gets 10 years for graft

By Hilda Dizon

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERday sentenced a former governor of Antique province to 10 years in prison after he was found guilty of graft in the irregular purchase of school furniture worth P3.87 million in 1997.

Justo Plameras was ordered to reimburse the provincial government P3.65 million, the value of the desks and armchairs that the supplier failed to deliver.

The complaint against Plameras was filed by Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier who accused the former governor of signing a purchase agreement with the supplier, Jesus de la Cruz of CBL Enterprises, on April 7, 1997 without any public bidding being conducted or an authorization from the provincial board.

The decision was penned by Associate Justice Efren de la Cruz. Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Norberto Geraldez concurred.

Airport siege over; Bangkok flights resume

[illegible]

Flight from Phuket

[illegible]

Time to move on

[illegible]

Economy hammered

[illegible]

Temporary relief

[illegible]

Proxies

[illegible]

Same old problems: Errors are unforgivable

[illegible]

There's no 'perfect book'

[illegible]

Errors escaped eagle eyes

[illegible]

Who's to blame?

[illegible]

To err is human

[illegible]

Stranded Pampanga housewife relished 1st class food

[illegible]

Free food, accommodation

[illegible]

Imperial Hotel

[illegible]

Last batch

[illegible]

Still stranded

[illegible]

RP embassy back to normal

[illegible]

Last special flight

[illegible]

Logging blamed for floodings in Camarines Norte

[illegible]

Chest-deep waters

[illegible]

Water queue

[illegible]

Damaged bridge

[illegible]

Bus, jeepney, taxi ...

No need for matrix

Inevitable

BI men at Naia told: No caroling

Soliciting gift



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY
MARAWI CITY

INQUIRER

OPINION

Ready to rumble

EDITORIAL



Short supply

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



Remembrance

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



Business offers P100-B infrastructure fund

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Filipinos in Obama's America

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

The future of Asia

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

'Cry of youth'

YOUNG BLOOD

Carina Amelia G. Manglapus

IN THE NEWS



Rep. Jose de Venecia

GMA aping Marcos, Ramos

EC member-consumers better off under RA 6938

Missing link to more anomalies in PNP

Abolition of abused office not the solution

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
E-mail to [illegible]
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

'Reming' survivors meet new aid heroes

By Ephraim Aguilar
Legazpi City

TWO YEARS AFTER SUPERTYPHOON "REMING" sent lahar from Mayon Volcano crashing down villages in Albay, killing over a thousand people, new heroes have risen from the rubble to sustain what was started from scratch.

Many international relief agencies had ceased to operate in the province, but new institutions are now bringing long-term assistance to the survivors.

A defining moment confronted Gail Narramore, a 30-year-old South African, when she visited the ruins left by lahar in Barangay Maipon in Guinobatan town. A grade school teacher from London, Narramore flew to Manila and Albay in January last year to see for herself the magnitude of the disaster.

Dream

Since childhood, Narramore has dreamed of putting up her own orphanage to care for abandoned, abused and neglected children.

While reading the Bible on a four-hour train trip in London, Narramore said she met an old Christian minister who befriended her. The man, however, died five years later but he had willed that all proceeds from his funeral be given to Narramore so she could start her charity work.

The woman's visit to Maipon village wrenched her heart. "Around 200 people ran after me the moment the villagers noticed my presence. Maybe they thought I was there to distribute food or clothing. There was deep despair in the eyes of the people," she recalled.

"It was raining and flooded that day. I saw one house made of bamboo standing, but half of it was buried under sand," she said.

But Narramore could not forget the face of a woman survivor named Nora. "She looked very happy and was smiling to me as she pointed to her half-buried house," she said.

Nora was tending a "sari-sari" (small) store near her house. "I wrote a sign 'Business as Usual' and posted it there," Narramore said.

Despite the tragedy, she said she was "shocked at how these people kept on going."

Free day care classes

Narramore went back to Manila to learn the legal requirements and ways of putting up a charity institution. In October last year, she started the Tinola Kids and Communities in Albay.

Tinola has been holding free day care classes for poor children in the hilly Sitio Cawayan in Barangay Calayucay, Sto. Domingo town. The schools are far from the village, an hour-long walk down a rugged trail.

"Most of their parents are farmers. The livelihood of the people there were badly affected after 'Reming,'" Narramore said.

Tinola has also been feeding and educating street children in the capital city of Legazpi.

It has Filipino volunteers and a staff. Narramore and two staff members had been living with the community in a farm in Cawayan, a 45-minute ride from downtown.

Alleviating hunger

Another kind-hearted soul, businesswoman Medianita Villanueva has been actively involved in linking government and nongovernment organizations for relief missions.

Seeing thousands of children facing hunger in the aftermath of the supertyphoon, Villanueva, who hails from Daraga town, created the Dios Mabalos Foundation. "Dios Mabalos," which means "May God bless you in return," is used by Bicolanos to express gratitude.

Villanueva said her group had been working with the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation and the Fondo ng Pinoy to hold supplemental feeding programs in schools and parishes.

"Since livelihood was badly affected by the disaster, the standard of living of families dropped. Poverty left many children sickly and malnourished," said Rolando Romero, Dios Mabalos project manager.

The foundation has already fed 47,875 children over six months under its daily nutrition program dubbed "Hapagasa." It serves rice porridge containing Vita-meal (food fortified with over 20 vitamins).

It has already expanded its operations to Aklan, where Villanueva's mother comes from.

Recovery

The provincial government has created a task force to implement a socioeconomic recovery program called "Albay Mabuhay."

Its coordinator, Emily Raro, said many of the relief agencies had already closed, but there was still the need to bring the people's lives back to normal and uplift them.

Albay Mabuhay has been providing skills training, credit assistance for livelihood, and job referrals and placements to beneficiaries.

If there is one good thing that "Reming" had brought to Albay, it strengthened the collaboration between government and nongovernment agencies, Raro said. "We have learned to combine our strengths to help the victims of disaster," she said.

She said, however, that more funds were needed to complete the recovery as displaced families were still living in "transit" shelters in relocation sites. The dwellings are rooms made of plywood and galvanized iron sheets.

Raro placed the shelter gap at 6,000 to 5,861 in two cities and five towns in Albay alone. Each resettlement house costs around P100,000.



SOUTH African Gail Narramore, right, has put up the Tinola Kids and Communities in Albay after Supertyphoon "Reming" brought devastation to many families two years ago. [illegible]

Despite the tragedy, Narramore said she was 'shocked at how these people kept on going'



THE CHARITY group holds free day care classes in this learning center in hilly Sitio Cawayan in Barangay Calayucay, Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Gonzalez out of group handling ₱8B in typhoon funds

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez will no longer head a task force to manage the P8-billion rehabilitation fund for areas ravaged by Typhoon Frank after his proposed designation was met by protests.

[illegible]

Land mine blast kills 5 soldiers

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—AT LEAST FIVE SOLDIERS WERE killed while two others were injured in a land mine explosion in a remote area of Lianga, Surigao del Sur late Tuesday afternoon, the military reported yesterday.

[illegible]

Cops stop Puerto hazing rites

[illegible]



NOWHERE TO GO

Solon tells opponents of Quezon division to let people speak

Hundreds flee Army, Sayyaf clashes in Basilan



Bishop backs fight vs aerial spraying

SBMA chair starts own probe of extortion bared by architect

Ginebra Kings too much for Barakos

BARANGAY GINEBRA, WITH JAYJAY HELTERBRAND joining Mark Caguioa on sick bay, still flashed enough firepower to turn back Red Bull, 83-78, yesterday in the KFC-Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sunday Salvacion and Ronald Tubid combined for six triples, trading baskets in the third period as the Gin Kings pulled away for good at 65-52.

The Gin Kings forged a four-way tie for third to sixth places with Sta. Lucia and Talk 'N Text while the Barakos suffered their seventh straight setback and fell deep down in the standings with a 3-10 record.

"It would be a lot easier if Jayjay and Mark are playing. It would have given us at least 20 points," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico. "But I have to give it to the guys who were doing the best they can in filling their roles very well."

Helterbrand and Caguioa, both nursing injuries, were hardly missed as Salvacion and Tubid took the cudgels for Ginebra to finish with a combined 38 markers.

Former Barako Junthy Valenzuela added 12 points and Paul Artadi contributed 10.

Cyrus Baguio paced Red Bull with 16.

Salvacion's trey with 3:56 left in the third period gave the Gin Kings their first sizeable lead at 62-45.

Former Gin King Mike Holper scored nine points in the fourth quarter but the Red Bull only flashed out in the homestretch.

"I wish we could be complete going to the next round," said Uichico. "Mark might be back early next year, but the thing is, he hasn't really played yet, so we cannot use him even if he's still here. Jayjay hasn't practiced yet as well."

Caguioa has yet to play this season with injuries on both knees which are being treated by Steve Lombardo of the Los Angeles Lakers. —Cedelf P. Tupas

The Scores

GINEBRA 83 — Tubid 21, Salvacion 17, Valenzuela 12, Artadi 10 ...

RED BULL 78 — Baguio 16, Holper 11 ...

Quarters: ... 83-78.



RED Bull's Celino Cruz tries to get away from Barangay Ginebra's Paul Artadi.

Aplus Metro

DID YOU KNOW

NBI: Cabbie has other pending cases



SWIMMING SANTAS
A young girl looks on as workers dressed up in Santa suits feed the fish at the Manila Ocean Park.

Faces arrest for 2007 robbery suit

THE TAXI DRIVER WHO WAS JUST CHARGED the other day with robbing and attempting to kidnap an 18-year-old student has several more cases pending in court, the police learned yesterday.

Tax amnesty set for Malabon folk

Cops hunt vandals of Mendiola statue

By Tina G. Santos



Who kidnapped Bentain and Mallilin?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



MetroBriefs

Bad bread!

Suing the prosecutors

Twin book launch

Smuggled oil seized in warehouse raid

Recall bid vs Muntinlupa mayor starts

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
60th Anniversary
10 December 1948 - 2008

Dignity and justice for all of us



National Human Rights Consciousness Week
December 4 - 10, 2008
www.chr.gov.ph

We are all born equal. We should treat each other in a spirit of brotherhood. (Article 1)

No one can take away your human rights. (Article 30)

WorldBriefs

Obama names commerce secretary

100 countries back cluster bomb ban

Republican wins Georgia runoff

Mexican in police killings beheaded

Simpson, codefendant face 18 years

Sex abuse allegations detailed

Christmas tree as weapon

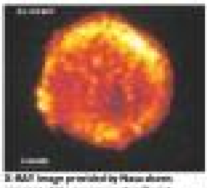
Anti-North Korean leaflets

Top 10 stupid gifts from chickens to toilet golf

Bush policies on detainees must go, say ex-US generals



Study illuminates 16th century star explosion



The WORLD



US EMBASSY officials welcome Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice upon her arrival in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Rice: Mumbai attacks bear stamp of al-Qaida

NEW DELHI—SECRETARY OF State Condoleezza Rice says the attacks in Mumbai are "the kind of terror in which al-Qaida participates."

[illegible]

EU sends flotilla to fight pirates

[illegible]



WHAT'S INSIDE

Team World pads lead over QC bets /A23

SPORTS

Last-second tip-in ends Lakers' run /A24



De La Hoya feels much quicker, stronger

By Francis T.J. Ochoa
Assistant Sports Editor



Dream Match will go 12 rounds–Dundee

By Francis T.J. Ochoa



Letran ousts FEU, battles Ateneo next; San Beda up

By Cedelf P. Tupas



Magnolia takes on Bacchus

It will be sharpshooter vs dangerous bomber

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



RP cagebelles seek Chinese reinforcement

By Cedelf P. Tupas

After De La Hoya-Pacquiao, real winner will be Hatton

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

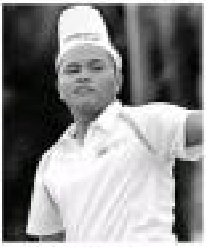


KNICKS STAR

Ateneo nips La Salle

Homeless Filipino booters yield to Finns, 6-4

Dumandan fires 67, pulls away by 4



DUMANDAN

Powerhouse Country Club bets up in Fil, Am divisions



ALINDO



ASISTIO

Team World pads lead over QC aces



MIKA IMMONEN: Team World spark plug

Banares, Oryan enter KO stage

No conflict for RP cage pool aspirants



SALA

Turalba seals Asian title



TURALBA

Handuraw nat'l chess team tilt set Dec. 17-21



JALORCO

Bakbakan king known today



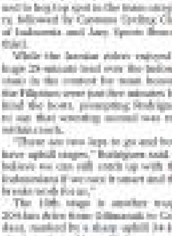
MBT CHAMP

SPORTS

Last-second tip-in ends Lakers' run



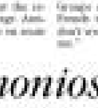
Indonesia race: Jazy cyclists still in 3rd spot



Cycling chief says Lance return no big deal



Patrimonios make Phinma final eight



7th WCSA tournament: PWU, Assumption, CEU up

Arellano notches 4th straight win, paces NCRAA

IN THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS

Battle for control of Meralco looms

Buyer of 10% gov't stake seen allied with San Miguel

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Doris C. Dumlao

SHARES OF MANILA ELECTRIC CO. (MERALCO) gained yesterday as investors snapped up shares in anticipation of a possible battle for control of the nation's biggest power retailer.

Global 3000 Investment Inc., which agreed to buy the remaining 10 percent stake of government financial institutions (GFIs) in Meralco for about P10 billion, will have physical custody of the shares once it has fully paid the amount by January 2012, government sources said yesterday. However, the buyer will have immediate voting rights over the shares jointly sold by the Social Security System, Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines.

"The shares will be held by the sellers and won't be counted until it's fully paid," a government source said.

Global 3000 has agreed to pay the three GFIs in four installments—20 percent before the end of this year, 20 percent in 2010, 20 percent in 2011 and 40 percent by 2012.

The investment fund is widely perceived as "allied" to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. The transaction is thus seen capable of tilting the balance of power in Meralco in favor of San Miguel, which bought the 27 percent stake of the Government Service Insurance System in the utility firm last October.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., said both the SMC and the Lopez groups would likely accumulate more shares of Meralco.

"They both will want to be on the safe side," he said.

Documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that Iñigo Zobel, the son of the late business magnate Enrique Zobel de Ayala, chairs the investment fund. Former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin also sits on the board.

Aside from Zobel and Ongpin, another prominent director of Global 3000 is Jesus Campos Jr., currently

MERALCO B2

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE 49.18

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close 1.4% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.4 PERCENT higher yesterday following an overnight rebound on Wall Street, dealers said.

The composite index closed up 25.41 points to 1,905.29 while the all-shares index was 0.47 percent higher at 1,202.96 points.

There were only 35 gainers against 58 losers and 34 unchanged.

Turnover was 885.66 million shares worth P1.18 billion.

Emeric Ballis of SB Equities told Dow Jones Newswires the rise was a reflection of the recovery on Wall Street overnight.

"But the market remains jittery because of the potential decline in earnings because the economic slowdown is already upon us," he added.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose 0.4 percent to P2,285.

Manila Electric Co. gained 5.9 percent to P57.50.

San Miguel's "A" shares remained unchanged at P41.50 while its "B" shares fell 1.2 percent to P40. AFP

Peso rallies to 49.18 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO rebounded yesterday on the back of buoyant currency and stock markets across the region as well as the inflow of overseas Filipino remittances for the Christmas season.

The local currency closed at 49.18 from Tuesday's finish of 49.56 against the greenback.

Currency traders said the market turned wary against hoarding dollars given the strong remittance season and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' bias against excessive exchange rate volatility. The currency closed yesterday

PESO B2

OceanaGold puts Didipio mining project on hold

Australian firm cites global financial crisis

Value of metal output down 22%

Calaca sale hits snag

Currencies

BPOs seen to hire more agents in '09

Difficulty in finding qualified personnel a big threat, survey shows



Asean projects to push through despite summit postponement

Construction to remain major growth driver

BPI projects higher profit next year

Cost pressures drive oil firms' profits down

Peso rallies ...

Battle for control of Meralco looms

LIFESTYLE Food
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan



Whole ham collection for Christmas

On pork leg, pistachio-flavored, and on huge, plump 'sudo'


MICHAEL Beck of Mickey's Deli

T[illegible]

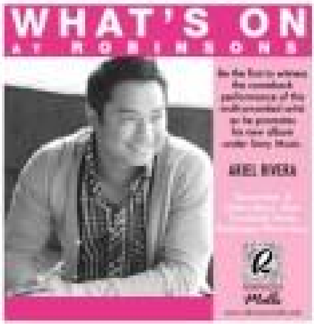
'Mr. Sudo,' Laurence Tan

[illegible]

KITCHEN RESCUE


Maggie Aspiras

[illegible]





How we miss special food of good old fiesta

COUNTRY COOKING



Micky Fenix



SPECIAL food at a fiesta

Fiesta food



Whole ham collection for Christmas

Perfect wines for Pinoy fare

Know your fundamentals

By Ramon C. Burgos

IT USED TO BE THAT IT WAS GOOD enough that you drank white wine with fish, light red with pork or chicken and heavy red with beef or lamb.

"The idea was that you don't want to overwhelm food with big red wine or wipe out white wine with the strong taste of rich red meat," says Ms. Veronica Hizon-De Torres, managing director, international brands, Emperador Distillers Inc., the exclusive distributor of Carlo Rossi wines in the Philippines.

But Carlo Rossi's Red Moscato, De Torres says, pairs with any Filipino dish or any meal rich in condiments and sauces. This is what she found out when their team did a food tasting and wine pairing at Richmonde Hotel's The Grill, with its former chef, Nicky Cameron.



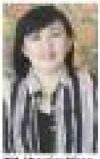
CARLO Rossi's red wines with Assorted Cheese Platter from Richmonde Grill



BEEF Swiss Steak on garlic potatoes by Richmonde Grill —PHOTOS BY ...

California Red and Red Moscato's smooth but soft light and fruity tastes blend flawlessly, on one hand, with Beef Morkado, Beef Salpicado, Beef Tapsilog, Lechon with Lengua, Longganisa, Lumpiang Shanghai, Menudo, Pinakbet, Bistek or Beef, Pinipaitang Manok, Pork Adobo, Pork and Chicken Barbecue, Pork Estofado, Pork Morcon, Pork Sparerribs, Sweet and Sour Pork.

On the other hand, Pochero, Baked Clams and Oyster, Calamares, Chicken Pastel with white sauce, Chicken Inasal, Chicken Galantina, Grilled Liempo and Grilled Squid were complemented by Carlo Rossi's white wine.



MS. Veronica Hizon-de Torres

Healthy drink

For many years now, De Torres and her team have been doing nationwide brand awareness activities to promote the benefits of wine drinking.

"Our tag is, for the good times flow. It means that despite what's happening all around us, Carlo Rossi is a friend that's always there. It's not an escapist drink but one that celebrates," De Torres says.



EDWARD Charles Chafeo

"Red wine is an economical, healthy and stylish gift," adds Edward Charles Chafeo, product manager, Gallo Wines, Emperador Distillers Inc. "The Filipino market is a young market. Pinoys are fond of experimenting with wines. So for those just starting to appreciate wine, either the Carlo Rossi California Red or Red Moscato is suitable."

Interesting tidbits

De Torres and Chafeo share these interesting tidbits about wine:

- Sixty percent of the world production of wine (obtained from total or partial alcoholic fermentation of fresh grapes) is concentrated in France, Italy and Spain, while 40 percent is made in the US, Australia, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand and South Africa.
- The factors affecting the final taste and style of wine are grape variety, climate, annual weather conditions, soil, viticulture and vinification.
- Light wine is made with 8-15 percent alcohol, which, when increased by adding brandy or other types of grape spirit, becomes fortified. Examples are sherry and port.
- There's also the popular sparkling wine which releases bubbles when the bottle is opened. Aromatized wine is flavored with herbs and spices, and an example is the vermouth.
- The styles of wine, according to color, are red, white and pink or rose. According to sweetness, it's dry, medium and sweet. A stemmed glass is used when serving wine to better appreciate the rich fruit aromas. It should be clear so you see the color of the wine.
- Don't over-chill white wine. To enjoy the fresh and fruity flavors of white or rose wines, place the bottle in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving. Chill red wine in an ice water bucket for 15 minutes and take it out and let it settle at room temperature before serving.
- If you cannot finish a bottle, recork it for the next day or decant with a screw-top cap, which will keep the wine fresh for three to four days.

In the end, wine is a matter of taste. Red is done not demand an occasion or pretension as an annual visit to relatives or an expat to see the country's problems right in a night. It is a good drink any time.

Create delicious steaks and roasts in a jiffy

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ways to create quick, delicious dinners everyone will love?

Steaks and Roasts, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will showcase Beef Tournedos with Mustard Sauce, Dijon Roasted Rosemary Chicken with Basil Mashed Potatoes Pan Spin, Roasted Pork with Apple Sauce, Crispy Salmon with Scallion Sauce, Osso Bucco Steak. Lecture and preparation of Basic Stock, Sauces, Marinades and Techniques of Grilling are also included.

Learn the techniques of creating Pies and Bars like Apple Pie, Lemon Meringue Pie, Mocha Blondies, High Fiber Carrot Bars and Butterscotch, on Dec. 6, 2-6 p.m.

In Baking for Business, Dec. 6, 2-6 p.m., learn the Applications of Maya Mixes with Sales Profit Analysis.

Present any two empty boxes of Maya Decadence Mixes Products—350-g Decadence Devil's Food Cake Mix, 520-g Decadence Yellow Cake Mix and 380-g Decadence Choco Fudge Brownie for a free class.

Learn the essentials of professional cooking in Basic Culinary, Dec. 8-12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit Maya Kitchen, Tuesday-Saturday at 8/F Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 892-5011 local 108; e-mail contactus@themayakitchen.com.

Hotel cuisine gone wild

Mandarin's Tivoli offers a one-time-only repast of Austrian chef Fritz Buergler's wild animal dishes

By Anna C. Salvatierra
Contributor

ON THE HEELS OF THE European Wild Game Festival, the Mandarin reprised the event with its own Night of Wines and Fine Dining at Tivoli.

A seven-course Chef's Tasting Menu was paired with notable Austrian wines selected by noted Austrian chef Fritz Buergler, who maintains his own remarkable wine cellar back home and who shared celebrated labels for this degustation.

Venison, prepared by Buergler, elevates the meat once considered unsophisticated country-folk fare to fine dining status. Deer meat has become a popular alternative to beef on European tables, owing to a growing health consciousness.

The flavors are similar, but the nutritional benefits tip in favor of the antlered ruminant animal. It is much leaner, has lower calories, fat and cholesterol.

Deer meat is dense and will shrink minimally when cooked. Whether roasted, grilled or minced, it does not require extended heat otherwise it becomes a soggy-in chew.

Chef Buergler, who owns a countryside inn called Gala Buergler, became adept at preparing wild game specialties. His family's close ties to the hunters in Salzburg provided early exposure to animals that fed on natural food available in the forests.

The inn maintains a restaurant that seats 180 and has contributed to Buergler's reputation as a master in the kitchen. His return to Manila provides adventurous food connoisseurs an opportunity to bite into the flesh of [illegible] and [illegible].

Wines for dining

The Tivoli repast was a succession of flavors and textures interspersed by whites and reds. Smoked trout fillet with tomato chutney and horseradish cream provided bite with autumn greens in cherry dressing.

It came with the 2005 Gruener Veltliner, Federspiel, Freie Weingaertner, Wachau. Wine tasting notes attribute a lushness with tones of grapefruit. Described as clean and fresh with the class of fine finishing, the wine served to enhance the gamey taste derived from such foods.

With some flourishes on the nose but without sweetness, it distinguishes itself as a food wine and not a wine to sip and swirl. It is not fruity but has a ripeness that brings a play of spice, a hint of apples and a tight, citrus acidity to the palate.

Austria's signature grape, the Gruener Veltliner has caught the attention of wine lovers. It is favored by vine growers in central Europe and covers a third of Austria's wine acreage.

White and red

The progression to the sea scallop, served with siblings of broad beans and blood orange sauce, was accompanied by 2005 Gruener Veltliner, Smaragd, Freie Weingaertner, Wachau.

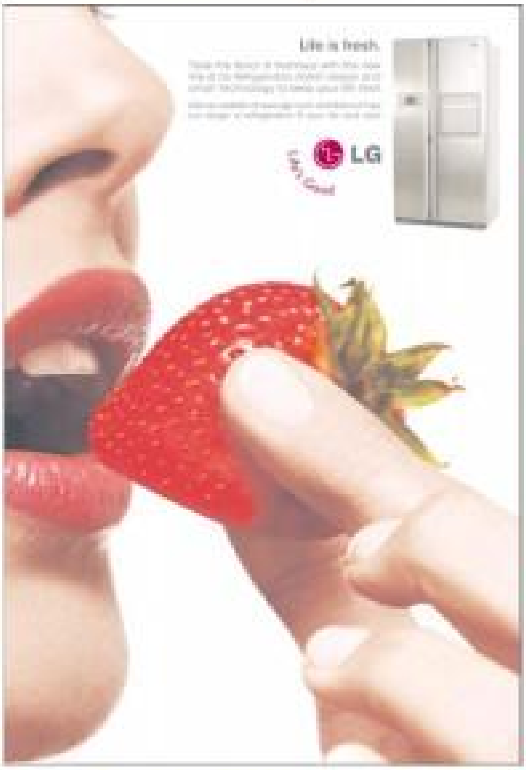
Smaragd is a special category of wine in the Wachau region. Game consommé with truffle oil brought a change of pace before the roast venison loin on a plate with forest mushrooms, celeriac puree, fondant potato and wild berry jus.

A 2004 Blaufraenkisch, Weingut Heinrich, Burgenland brought out the best good of the meat. The red, still wine from the Blaufraenkisch grape, combined traditional wine-making and modern technology—apparent in the bottle with a glass wine cap instead of cork screw.

The vines are cultivated in eastern Austria at the Vineyard Heinrich in Deutschkreutz, the heart of the "Blaufraenkisch Country."

The supper wound down with warm camembert, roasted walnut in honey glaze and elderberry compote. A 2004 Blaufraenkisch, Weingut Heinrich, Burgenland and William pear, alongside citrus rice pudding with pineapple bell bisdamo, left a savory aftertaste.

The Night of Wine and Fine Dining featuring Wild Game was held at Tivoli on Nov. 20.



Guide to Asia's dining attractions



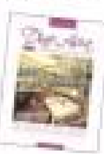
WITH A RICH gastronomic heritage resulting from merging influences from as far as China, Spain, America, India, Mexico, Indonesia and Malaysia, the Philippines offers a distinctive epicurean experience like no other.

This is now celebrated in Dine Asia, a guide and coffee-table book on Asian and Filipino dining.

Spearheaded by editor in chief Mary Anne Melo, Dine Asia has been endorsed by Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

The second issue has for its cover feature Aubergine Restaurant where it was recently launched.

The fine-dining venue offers Modern French Continental cuisine. Aubergine Restaurant is at Global City in Taguig.



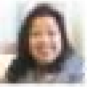


LIFESTYLE Food



The ambassador's feast

The Philippine envoy to Brunei prepares home-cooked dinner fit for royalty



AMBASSADOR Virginia Benavidez



DESSERT DRAMA. Inside ice-sculptured domes are colorful slices of green guava, honeydew and red, crunchy mango with green powder side dip. Delicious carrot cake that is moist and not too sweet caps a memorable dinner.

By Lynett A. Villariba

IN BRUNEI, EVERY DINNER that Philippine Ambassador Virginia Hontiveros-Benavidez hosts in her official residence, called "Ang Bahay," is always a royal feast, whether the guests coming are royalty or overseas Filipino workers.

On the 24-seat dining table is a colorful showcase of Filipino hospitality and cuisine. Edible décor of oranges dotted with cloves and green chives with buds on white radish whet the appetite and stimulate conversations underneath tall glass vases of flowers held by different seashells in water.

Guests savor home-cooked full-course meals on Noritake Sienna porcelain dinner plates, with the logo of the Republic of the Philippines. Under the dinner plates are place mats made of capiz shells.

Hand-embroidered table napkins are individually inserted into cowry shells. The menu and name holders are also made of seashells. The long-stemmed water and wine glasses are made of crystal.

Chicken tinolad soup is served on halved young coconut, wrapped with coconut skin. Almost always on the menu is the ambassador's popular chicken adobo that has been featured on Brunei TV, with other Filipino specialties such as pancit, ½ la laging, kangkong guisy sa suman, suman at mangga, and the sought-after Pinoy ice cream served from an authentic sorbetero cart.

On her state visit to Brunei in 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo used the dinner occasion to interact with the Filipino community. Holding a cucumber stick dipped in Horseradish Cream to go with the Herb Terrine, she was quoted as saying, "Our dinner is home-cooked. Very nice. The presentation is fit for royalty."

In that dinner, roasted Pumpkin Soup was served in a real pumpkin, with its top intact, and its seeds carved out to make an edible receptacle.

When we were guests in the ambassador's residence last October, breakfast on the first day consisted of freshly baked flat bread dipped in balsamic vinegar-olive oil dressing, to go with fried hard-boiled egg (not her cheekily named "Mother-in-law's Eggs") in a tamarind-chili dressing.

'Play of textures'

Our resident Foodie Baba Rodig, a consultant to restaurant chains, describes it as "a simple dish in a tangy sweet-salty dressing.

"There was a play of textures: crispy and hard on the outside, while crunchy and soft in the inside, as well as a play of

THE AMBASSADOR'S D2

The ambassador's feast





Buffet suits the unpredictable modern lifestyle

Renaissance Makati City Hotel provides a venue to dine, even when the body clock is not in sync with the rest of the population



Leisured dining

Not on bread alone

Pots of goodness

Dessert indulgence



Restaurant sports new look, offers more dishes



Buffet of chef's originals

DINING OUT





Mexican specialties

Mocha treats

Irresistible doughnuts

UCC in Trinoma

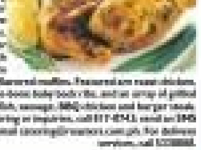
Where to hang out

Seafood feast

GRILLED FOOD



SUMPTUOUS DISHES



Tomatoes, garlic on Spanish-style bread



Tips

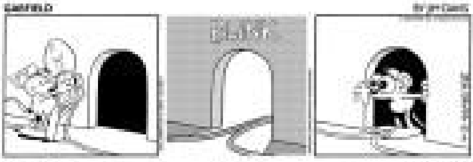




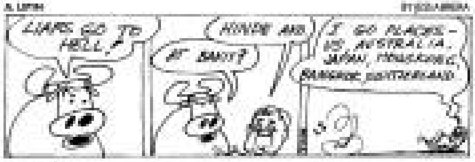
Reliving memories of Patio Guernica, the 25-year-old fine dining resto

Old Spanish house moves to new address

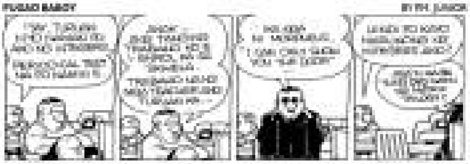
GARFIELD



A. LIPIN

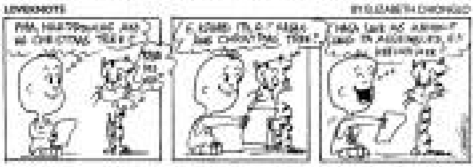


PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY





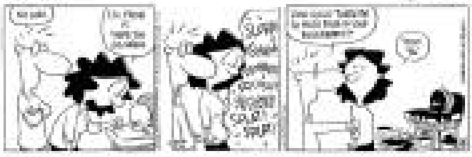
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES

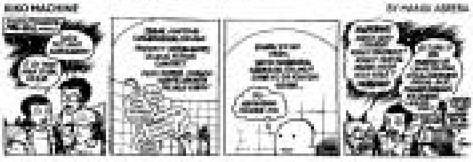


ATOMO AND WEBOT

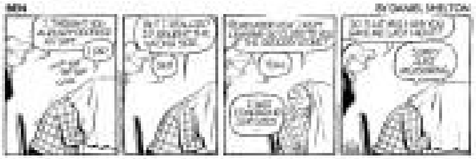




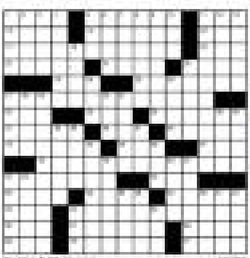
KIKO MACHINE

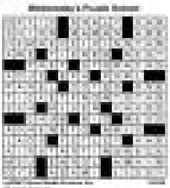


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

2						6	7	
		8			3			
			9	5				
3				4	7			
8				2				1
			1	8				9
				3	1			
			7			5		
	5	1						8

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

ENTERTAINMENT





Animahenasyon winners



Gary V detained in Qatar



RUSHES









Animahenasyon winners













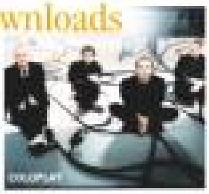








Top iTunes downloads



NEW YORK — COLDPLAY WAS THE hottest iTunes album download this year. Its "Viva la Vida" was crowned the best-selling album of 2008, while Leona Lewis' "Bleeding Love" was named the top-selling single.

Coldplay's CD has sold more than [illegible] copies [illegible] — most of which [illegible] through iTunes, according to the band's representatives. iTunes does not release its sales figures. [illegible]



LEONA Lewis

Jack Johnson's "Sleep Through the Static" was the No. 2 selling album, while the soundtrack to the film "Juno," Lil Wayne's "The Carter III" and [illegible] rounded out the iTunes top 5. [illegible] — "Viva" and "Across the Universe" — while Jason Mraz's "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things," OneRepublic's "Dreaming Out Loud" and Leona Lewis' "Spirit" rounded it out.

Lewis' "Bleeding Love" sold [illegible] million digitally, according to her label, J Records. According to iTunes, the title track of Coldplay's album was its No. 2 most downloaded track, followed by "Low" by Flo Rida (featuring T-Pain), Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl" and Rihanna's "Disturbia."

Rihanna also made the top 10 singles with "Don't Stop the Music," while "Lollipop" by Lil Wayne and Static Major, "No Air" by Jordin Sparks and Chris Brown, Sara Bareilles' "Love Song" and Natasha Bedingfield's "Pocketful of Sunshine" also made the iTunes top 10 downloaded singles list. AP



'Patiently Assists with Lost Luggage'

BACK STORY
Lea Salonga



[illegible]

> We had broken a cardinal rule: Label all bags

Where's the striped bag?

[illegible]

Speaking of Bangkok...

[illegible]

Shameless plugs

[illegible]

At the Cinemas

[illegible]

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 QUARANTINE	2 TWILIGHT	3 FOUR CHRISTMASES	4 PRIDE & GLORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 FOUR CHRISTMASES	2 QUARANTINE	3 TWILIGHT	
	4 [illegible]	5 BOLT	6 TWILIGHT	7 ROCKNROLLA
GREENBELT 1	1 QUARANTINE	2 TWILIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
	3 ROCKNROLLA	4 FOUR CHRISTMASES	5 PRIDE & GLORY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
	3 FOUR CHRISTMASES	4 QUARANTINE	5 PRIDE & GLORY	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TWILIGHT	2 BOLT	3 QUARANTINE	4 [illegible]
MARKET! MARKET!	1 TWILIGHT	2 FOUR CHRISTMASES		
	3 PRIDE & GLORY	4 QUARANTINE	5 [illegible]	
TRINOMA	1 FOUR CHRISTMASES	2 PRIDE & GLORY	3 QUARANTINE	4 TWILIGHT
	5 BOLT	6 TWILIGHT	7 TWILIGHT	

At the Malls

[illegible]

